



**Govt. of India
Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology
R&D Infrastructure Division**

**Call for Project Proposal under
“Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in
Universities and Higher Educational Institutions”**

FIST 2023 Program

**Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology**

**“Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher
Educational Institutions (FIST) Program – 2023”**

Proposals are invited online for consideration of support under the Scheme “Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST)” of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. The Scheme is intended to provide basic infrastructure and enabling facilities for promoting R&D activities in new and emerging areas and attracting fresh talents in universities & other educational institutions. It is considered as complimentary support for enabling Departments/ Centres/ Schools/ Colleges to pursue research activities more effectively and efficiently. The current emphasis on the immensely successful FIST programme is for orienting it towards the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat by providing accessibility of the R&D infrastructure facilities not only for research activities in academic organizations but also for use by the start-ups/ manufacturing industries/ MSMEs. Appropriate mechanisms including use of the FIST facilities through multiple shifts are being encouraged through a public notice to promote optimal utilization of these resources.

Nature of Support: The Scheme will provide optimal infrastructure facilities for post-graduate and higher research, such as, renovation of existing laboratory space (no fresh constructions) and cold room, modernization of laboratories involved in PG and higher research, acquisition of essential equipment, up-gradation of existing facilities, networking & computational facilities including software & databases, scientific & technical books (no journals), maintenance & refurbishing of existing and new facilities etc.. The facilities provided under the Program are intended to support the efforts of the Department as a whole or a number of faculty members in the Department. Proposal towards individual R&D support would not be accepted under this Scheme. The synergy and focus of research may preferably be aligned to National Missions/ priorities.

Duration: The duration of support for each FIST Project will be for a period of 5 years.

Eligibility: For **University / Degree awarding Academic Institutions**, the support will be considered for the 'Department / School / Center' as a unit. All Science [under Life Sciences only traditional/ basic biological areas and excluding proposals that are pertaining to areas under modern biology (including Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Immunology, Disease Biology etc.)] and Engineering Departments/ Centres having strong PG research programs which have existed for at least 5 years or more in universities and other higher educational institutions recognized or regulated by UGC/ AICTE and/or MHRD/ State Education Department. Educational organizations under the aegis of other Ministries/ Depts./ Agencies are excluded from the scope of FIST 2023 support.

For any repeat cycle of FIST support following an earlier FIST Project (IRRESPECTIVE of, at ANY LEVEL), henceforth all such beneficiary Department/ College would be considered for support at an appropriate level as per the category of Cool-off period mentioned below:

S. No.	Review Grading of immediately preceding project*	Cool-off Period after completion of project tenure (including any extended period)
1.	Excellent	2 years
2.	Very Good	
3.	Good	3 years
4.	Satisfactory	5 years

*Review grading may be sought by emailing to DST through **institutional email account** of the Head of Dept./Principal of College.

It may be noted that all such Department/ Centre/ School that have already received support under FIST Program must ensure submission of all relevant documents towards final settlement and closure of the concerned project after completion of the ongoing project tenure and obtain the 'Project Completion Certificate'.

For College, the support to 'College as a whole' shall be considered for the post-graduate S&T departments only and not for other Departments i.e., Humanities, Management, Commerce etc. In addition, NITs/ IITs/ Schools/ Centres/ University Constituent Colleges are not eligible to apply under Level 'A'.

Further eligibility parameters and criteria for considering a proposal for support under FIST Program are based on the type of support and are provided, subsequently.

Type of Support: Currently, there are four types of support corresponding to four different levels. These are as follows:

- (1) **Level 'A' (Academic-PGC):** Proposals from active PG Colleges (Govt./ Govt. aided/ Private) (having eligibility as specified for Level-A) shall be considered for a maximum support of up to ₹1.50 crores for establishing research facilities for the S & T for 5 years duration.
- (2) **Level 'B' (Basic R&D Depts.):** Proposals from relatively small but active post-graduate S&T Department from different Universities (having eligibility as specified for Level-B) and degree awarding academic Institutions requiring moderate funding for improving quality of research. The support would be up to ₹3.0 crores for 5 years duration for augmentation of research facilities to a Department/ School/ Centre.
- (3) **Level 'C' (Contemporary R&D Depts.):** Proposals from well-established S&T Department from State/ Central Universities and degree awarding academic Institutions (having eligibility as specified for Level-C) with high repute requiring substantial funding (upper limit - ₹5.0 crores for 5 years duration) for acquiring state-of-the-art equipment & setting up laboratories for conducting internationally competitive research.
- (4) **Level 'D' (Distinguished R&D Depts.):** Proposals from well established, internationally competitive S&T Department from State/ Central Universities and degree awarding academic Institutions (having eligibility as specified for Level-D). The upper limit of funding support would be ₹10.0 crores for 5 years duration) for acquiring only state-of-the-art very sophisticated equipment/ facilities.

Criteria for proposals to be considered for support under FIST Program:

Level – A:

- i) Funding for PG Colleges (only for S&T related Departments) up to ₹1.50 Crore for 5 years duration,
- ii) College should have a valid- either NIRF ranking/ NBA/ NAAC/ or accreditation by any other national agency,
- iii) College should have existed at least for five (5) years
- iv) Minimum No. of students shall be- cumulative for PG Programs (15) & cumulative for UG Programs (30),
- v) Average number of Faculty with PhD at PG level shall be 4 across all S&T Departments,
- vi) Evidence of research in the PG Department (s) of the College w.r.t extramural research grants, faculty involved in supervising/ co-supervising research scholars pursuing their full-time PhD by fully/ partly utilizing research facilities at the College, and also receiving some fellowship either by virtue of NET/ GATE qualification or holder of Institute/ any other agency fellowship,
- vii) For self-financed Private/ Govt. aided Colleges, support shall be considered on a shared basis - DST share@75% and College/ Institute Management share @25 % of total project cost and/ or actual expenditure within the total project cost (whichever is less).

Level – B:

- i) At this level funding is up to ₹3.0 Crores for 5 Years duration for moderate/ basic research activities,
- ii) Departments in: a) State Universities; b) Departments applying for 1st time from Central Universities and Academic Institutions [including new IITs/ AIIMSs (established since 2014) and currently functioning in a temporary campus],
- iii) Departments from all IITs/ AIIMSs (**other than the ones mentioned above**), IISc and IISERs would not be considered for Level B support,
- iv) Department should have existed at least for five (5) years,
- v) Number of core faculty members having Ph D degree should be five (5) or more,
- vi) Departments seeking repeat cycle of support need to fulfill the applicable cool-off eligibility norms,

- vii) Performance in last 5 years:
 - a) Publications in SCI Journals, Patents etc.
 - b) Awards received by the Faculty Members of the Department/ Centre
 - c) No. of EMR/ CRG projects with each faculty member
 - d) Recognition of faculty as Fellows of any National/ International Academies
- viii) Projected Research Plan for next 5 Years,
- ix) For self-financed private organizations, the Departments of the University/ Institute should have at least 50% students pursuing their PhD as full time Research Scholar and receiving their fellowships either by virtue of NET/GATE qualification or holder of Institute/any other agency fellowship.
- x) For Departments from self-financed Private University/ Institute, support shall be considered on a shared basis - DST share@75% and University/ Institute Management share @25 % of total project cost and/ or actual expenditure within the total project cost (whichever is less).

Level – C:

- i) At this level funding is up to ₹5.0 Crores for 5 Years duration,
- ii) Departments in: a) State Universities; b) Central Universities / All Academic Institutions / IITs, IISc, IISERs & AIIMSs,
- iii) Departments seeking repeat cycle of support need to fulfill the applicable cool-off eligibility norms,
- iv) Department should have existed for at least for five (5) years,
- v) Number of core faculty members having Ph D degree should be eight (8) or more,
- vi) Well established Department/ Centre and should be internationally competitive,
- vii) The focus of support would be in tune with the National Missions as well as National Priorities,
- viii) Performance in last 5 years
 - a) Publications in SCI Journals, Patents etc.
 - b) Awards received by the Faculty Members of the Department/ Centre
 - c) No. of EMR/ CRG projects with each faculty member
 - a) Recognition of faculty as Fellows of any National/ International Academies
- ix) Projected Research Plan for next 5 years,
- x) No additional Maintenance support. Such Departments need to include/ negotiate comprehensive warranty of the equipment at the time of purchase for a maximum of 5-years period.
- xi) For self-financed private organizations, the Departments of the University/ Institute should have at least 50% PhD students pursuing their PhD as full time Research Scholar and receiving their fellowships either by virtue of NET/GATE qualification or holder of Institute/any other agency fellowship.
- xii) Support to Departments of the University/ Institute (both Govt. and Non-Govt.) shall be considered on a shared basis - DST share@75% and Grantee University/ Institute share @25 % of total project cost and/ or actual expenditure within the total project cost (whichever is less).

Level – D:

- i) Departments in State & Central Universities /All Academic Institutions (including IITs, IISc, IISERs & AIIMSs) that are well established & internationally competitive Department/Centre in R&D activities,
- ii) Funding is up to ₹10.0 Crores for 5 Years duration,
- iii) Department should have existed for at least for fifteen (15) years,
- iv) The Department should have already received 2 cycles of FIST support at Level 'C' and secured at least one 'Excellent' and one 'Very Good' review grading in those Projects,
- v) The focus of support would be in tune with the National Missions as well as National Priorities in manufacturing, waste processing, clean energy, water and start-up India etc.,
- vi) Minimum Number of permanent faculty members with PhD degree should be ten (10) faculty members,
- vii) At least 20% Faculty Members in the Department/ Centre shall have recognition at National/ International level such as Membership of Academies, Awards and Leadership Roles etc.,
- viii) Measurement of Department/ Centre's profile on last 10 years' Performance:
 - a) Publications in SCI Journals with citation of each publication,
 - b) Patents (Filed or Granted) and Patents exploited for commercial gain,
 - c) Extra Mural Research (EMR) Grants received from 1) National Agencies, 2) International Agencies, 3) Industry (on both Collaborative Research & Consultancy),
 - d) Full-time PhD awarded,
 - e) Recognition of faculty members from a) National and b) International agencies like Academy Membership, Awards etc.

- ix) No additional Maintenance support. Such Departments need to include/ negotiate comprehensive warranty of the equipment at the time of purchase for a maximum of 5-years period.
- x) For self-financed private organizations, the Departments of the University/ Institute should have at least 50% PhD students pursuing their PhD as full time Research Scholar and receiving their fellowships either by virtue of NET/GATE qualification or holder of Institute/any other agency fellowship.
- xi) Support to Departments of the University/ Institute (both Govt. and Non-Govt.) shall be considered on a shared basis - DST share@75% and Grantee University/ Institute share @25 % of total project cost and/ or actual expenditure within the total project cost (whichever is less).

Kind Attention:

❖ Resource sharing by Grantee Organizations-

For Level 'A' and 'B'- All Govt. Organizations: 100% @DST

Any Non-Govt./ Private/ Aided Organizations: 75% @DST & 25% @Grantee Institute

For Level 'C' and 'D'- All Organizations (Govt./ Non-Govt.): 75% @DST & 25% @Grantee Institute

- ❖ PRIVATE Academic University/ College/ Institution under Not-for-Profit status and GOVT. AIDED Colleges would be considered as Academic Institutions (Private) option during the process of online submission of proposal.

Selection: The selection will be through a peer review mechanism and visit to the laboratories, if necessary. An Advisory Board of Experts will assist the DST in making final selection.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING ONLINE APPLICATION

1. Log on onlinedst.gov.in to access the home page of the “DST e-PMS Portal”.
2. Before filling up the form candidates are advised to carefully go through the Relevant Advertisement published at the DST Website (www.dst.gov.in) and also available under Proposal Formats in the e-PMS Portal (www.onlinedst.gov.in) after logging in the portal site.
3. To save your time and avoid data loss please download the appropriate proposal format as suitable for your either Department [LEVEL B/ LEVEL C/ LEVEL D] or PG College [LEVEL A], fill all the information required as per the format (Word and PDF) file (**max. size 5Mb**) and then keep it ready for upload during submission of mandatory documents.
4. Click on “Submit proposals” link which would take you to a page seeking multiple information starting with – General information, Principal investigator etc. **Kindly fill the mandatory information as mentioned in the General Format of the Application. For all other documents/ information you may kindly submit the same as a part of the consolidated proposal along with application format, as appropriate for you.**
5. After filling all above particulars there is provision for preview your detail before final submission of application form on clicking on “Preview” button. Preview page will display all facts/particulars that you have mentioned on entry time if you are sure with filled details then click on “Submit” button to finally push data into server.
6. Candidates are advised to carefully fill and verify the details filled in the online application themselves as no change will be possible/ entertained after clicking the FINAL SUBMIT BUTTON.

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:

Online Application must be submitted by 25th April 2023 after which the web-link will be AUTOMATICALLY disabled FOR ANY USAGE. For any enquiry, contact: Dr Arindam Bhattacharyya; Email id: a.bhattacharyya@nic.in

PLEASE NOTE

- 1 IT IS MANDATORY TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSALS ONLY THROUGH **ONLINE MODE**.
- 2 THE DEPARTMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SEE THE COMPLETENESS OF THE APPLICATION BEFORE IT IS SUBMITTED FINALLY. SINCE THREE (3) CHANCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSAL FROM THE SAME DEPARTMENT/ COLLEGE, **THE LAST PROPOSAL SUBMITTED WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR EVALUATION**. THE DEPARTMENT/ COLLEGE SHALL KEEP A COPY OF THE SUBMITTED PROPOSAL FOR THEIR REFERENCE. THERE WILL BE **NO NEED TO SUBMIT HARD COPY OF THE PROPOSAL AT THE DST**.
- 3 INCOMPLETE OR WRONGLY FILLED UP APPLICATION FORMAT OR APPLICATION WITH LACK OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION/ DOCUMENTS WILL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED. ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT TO ANY MATTER OF CLAIM OR DISPUTE ARISING OUT OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT AND / OR APPLICATION CAN BE LODGED ONLY IN DELHI COURTS/ TRIBUNALS/ FORUMS AND DELHI COURTS / TRIBUNAL/ FORUMS ONLY SHALL HAVE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION TO TRY ANY CASE / DISPUTE.
- 4 PROPOSAL SUBMITTED THROUGH E-MAIL WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. UNIVERSITY/ DEGREE AWARDING ACADEMIC INSTITUTION DEPARTMENTS (LEVEL B/ LEVEL C/ LEVEL D) AND COLLEGES (LEVEL A) MUST USE SEPARATE FORMAT OF APPLICATION UPLOADED AT THE ONLINE PORTAL (ONLINEDST.GOV.IN)/ GIVEN IN THE WEBSITE (WWW.DST.GOV.IN). **SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL OTHER THAN THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT SHALL SUMMARILY BE REJECTED WITHOUT ANY FURTHER PROCESSING AS PER PROGRAM NORMS.**

Mandatory Documents to be uploaded with the Online Proposal:

- *Endorsement from PI and Summary Sheet for FIST-2023*
- *Endorsement Letter from the Registrar of the University/Head of the Institute/ Principal of the College*
- *Department of Science and Technology - Policy on Conflict of Interest*
- *Terms and Conditions for “FIST” Grant*
- *Project Implementation Group (PIG)*
- *Brief Summary of the FIST Support (**Not required for Departments/ Colleges seeking first time support**)*

Please note that incomplete Proposal/ Proposal not in the prescribed Format would summarily be rejected and no correspondence in such cases would be made in this respect. The name of the successful departments shall be displayed on the Website after completion of the evaluation process.